



# MD 5 (Branch Avenue) Reconstruction Project

I-95/I-495

INFORMATIONAL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2005

## Greetings from the State Highway Administration

The State Highway Administration (SHA) will improve safety and mobility along MD 5 (Branch Avenue) in Prince George's County by beginning Phase One of the reconstruction of Branch Avenue and improved access to the Metro station at Branch Avenue.

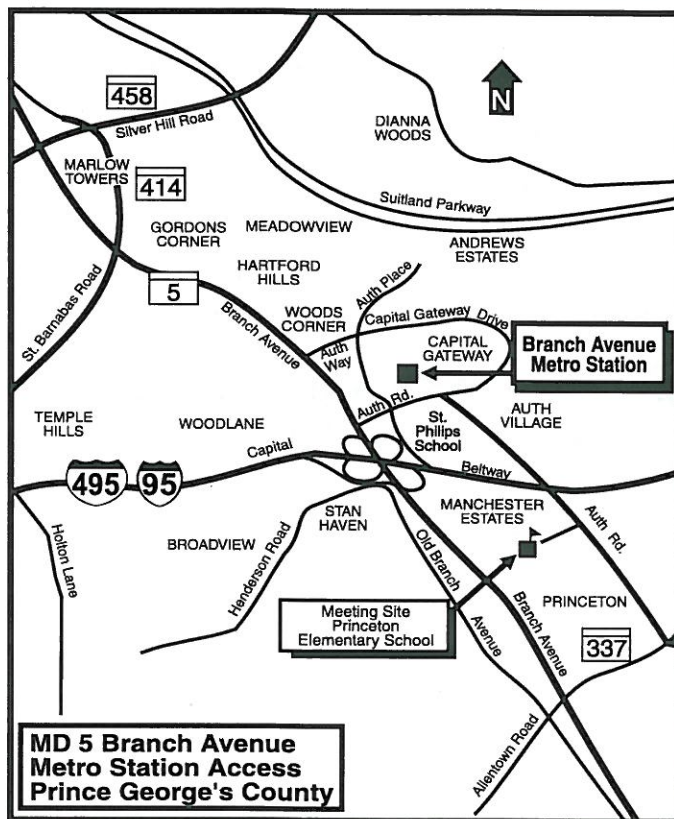
MD 5 (Branch Avenue) is one of the heaviest traveled roads in Prince George's County. More than 142,800 vehicles per day travel along the road, which ranges from a four-lane undivided highway to a six-lane highway. The Prince George's County Executive and County Council identified the improvements along the MD 5/I-95 Interchange and access to the Branch Avenue Metro station as the number one priority project for the county.

The Branch Avenue Metro Station opened in January 2001. The Station serves the Metro's Green Line, which connects the Branch Avenue Station with the Greenbelt Metro Station. The average daily boarding number for June 2004 is 12,600 daily trips. It currently has a capacity for 3,200 vehicles. The lot reaches capacity by 8 a.m., Monday through Friday. Access to the Metro Station is from MD 5.

Considering planned, large-scale commercial and residential development near the Branch Avenue Metro station and traffic volume, which is projected to reach 216,200 vehicles per day by 2025, the State Highway Administration (SHA) conducted a study to modify several key Capital Beltway interchange ramps, add a Metro access road off MD 5 and associated Prince George's County roadway improvements.

## Description of the Project

The proposed project upgrades the current roadway network adjacent to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metro Green Line Rail Branch Avenue Station, which opened in January 2001. The purpose of the project is to more safely and efficiently accommodate the existing traffic volume demand generated by the Metro Station and also address future traffic volumes generated by development along Capital Gateway Drive surrounding the Metro Station. The existing traffic volume exceeds the roadway capacity. The adjacent roadway network consists of I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway), MD 5 (Branch Avenue), the I-95/I-495 and MD 5 interchange connection, and the following Prince George's County Roadways: Auth Road, Auth Place, and Auth Way.



*The project has been split into two phases to move forward into design and construction activities.*

**Phase 1** will include the interchange improvements currently funded for design and construction.

**Phase 2** will include the Metro Access Road and the County roadway improvements currently funded for design only.

## A Closer Look

The project improvements for Phase 1 include modifications to the MD 5/Capital Beltway interchange ramps and resurfacing the Capital Beltway (and associated interchange ramps) within the project limits. The specific improvements for the project include:

- The construction of a flyover ramp from the Capital Beltway Inner Loop to southbound MD 5. The ramp will cross over both MD 5 and the Capital Beltway, and will replace the existing cloverleaf ramp. It will serve to minimize backups and weaving along the Capital Beltway Inner Loop at MD 5.

*(continued on back)*

(continued from front page)

- The reconstruction of the cloverleaf ramp from northbound MD 5 to the Inner Loop. The ramp will be realigned and have a spur connecting directly with the intersection at Auth Road and Auth Place. This will allow traffic from the Auth Place/Auth Road intersection to directly access the Inner Loop.
- The realignment of the ramp from the Beltway Outer Loop to southbound MD 5. This ramp will merge into the new flyover ramp from the Inner Loop and reduce to a single acceleration lane onto southbound MD 5.
- A crosswalk and ADA-compliant sidewalk will be included in the contract to provide a safer pedestrian crossing for the Woodlane community to cross MD 5. The crossing will be provided on the west side of the intersection at Auth Road and MD 5. A pedestrian signal will also be added to the existing traffic signal.
- Resurfacing of the Capital Beltway, Inner and Outer Loops, and MD 5 interchange ramps within the project limits

### Changes to the Project

Since the last Public Information Meeting, one change was made to the proposed improvements. A request from a resident representing the Woodlane Community to SHA's District 3 Office in Greenbelt prompted SHA to design pedestrian access to the Woodlane community in Phase 1.



printed on recycled paper

Ultimately, Phase 2 of the project will bridge pedestrians from the Woodlane community over MD 5, maintaining a safe pedestrian connection to the Metro Station.

### Current Project Schedule (Tentative)

#### Phase 1:

Advertisement – Summer 2005

Construction Start – Summer/Fall 2005

#### Phase 2:

Final Design Start – Spring 2005

### Questions?

If you have questions or comments regarding the MD 5 Branch Avenue Metro Access project, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Eric E. Marabello, the SHA Project Manager at **410-545-8770** or toll-free at **1-888-228-5003**. Mr. Marabello may also be reached via email at: [emarabello@sha.state.md.us](mailto:emarabello@sha.state.md.us).

Information on this and other SHA projects may also be obtained at the SHA web site at:

[www.marylandroads.com](http://www.marylandroads.com).

**Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.**, Governor

**Michael S. Steele**, Lieutenant Governor

**Robert L. Flanagan**, Secretary

**Neil J. Pedersen**, Administrator